

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 3, 2005, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-12 contain allowable subject matter, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 13-16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,274,217) in view of Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,002); claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Brown et al. and further in view of Walters (U.S. Patent No. 3,478,869); and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Brown et al. and further in view of Drakenfeld (U.S. Patent No. 3,43,704). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-14 and 16-20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

Regarding the 112 rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been amended to overcome the 112 rejections. Therefore, claims 1-12 should now be in condition for allowance.

Regarding the 103 rejections:

Neither of the foregoing references relied upon, individually or combined, discuss "a packing unit for a refrigerator having a detachable door handle, the packing unit comprising an outer case to protect an external appearance of a refrigerator having a detachable door handle; an upper shock absorber accommodated in the outer case and connected to an upper part of the refrigerator such that the upper shock absorber covers an entire top surface of the refrigerator; and a lower shock absorber accommodated in the outer case and connected to a lower part of the refrigerator such that the lower shock absorber covers an entire bottom surface of the refrigerator, and comprising a handle accommodating part on a bottom surface thereof, to accommodate the detachable door handle when detached from the refrigerator," as recited in amended claim 13.

Instead, Kim discusses a buffer member for a shipping carton (see Abstract). In FIG. 9, Kim discusses upper buffer members 11 placed on the top/side portions of the television set and lower buffer members 120 placed at lower/side portions of the shipping carton (see column 2, lines 26-47). A buffer insert 130 is fitted into an opening in each lower buffer member 120 forming a buffering gap between a bottom surface of the television and the buffer member 120 such that the load of the television is concentrated, and effectively absorbed by the buffer insert. The buffer members in Kim do not cover the entire top and bottom portions of the television, instead, the buffer members merely cover and protect the top and lower side portions of the

television set.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Kim fails to disclose "a handle accommodating part " as recited in amended claim 13. However, the Examiner asserts that Smith or Brown et al. disclose this feature. The Applicant respectfully submits that neither Smith nor Brown et al. make up for the deficiencies of Kim.

Smith discusses a product cushioning structure to provide impact protection for a shock sensitive product from co-packaged accessories for that shock sensitive product, during shock loading conditions (see column 5, lines 23-27). Further, the product cushioning structure of Kim is intended to be used for shock sensitive products such as a hard drive, CD and DVD drive to be co-shipped with accessories such as a floppy discs or CDs, instruction booklets etc (see column 7, lines 22-30). That is, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to use the product cushioning structure of Smith for items such as a refrigerator and a detachable handle thereof.

Brown et al. discusses a carton/pad packing assembly for a water heater (see Abstract). The packing assembly having vertical indentations formed in a top portion of lower pad sections of the packing assembly to hold a junction box of the water heater during handling of the water heater (see FIG. 3 and column 4, lines 7-18). The indentations of Brown et al. are not formed on a bottom surface of the lower pad sections.

Claim 20 recites features similar to claim 1.

Thus, the combination of Kim and Smith or Brown et al. fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Dependent claims 14-19 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 16 recites "wherein the lower shock absorber comprises at least one air vent to allow air to flow therethrough".

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

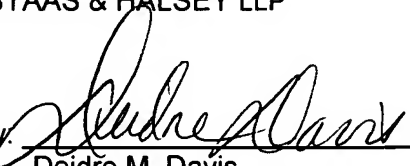
Respectfully submitted,

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